

The District School Board of Indian River County met on December 13, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. The discussion was held in the Teacher Education Center located in the School District Office at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center located at 6500 – 57th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32967. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Charles G. Searcy, Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost, and Board Members: Dale Simchick, Laura Zorc, and Tiffany M. Justice. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

Discussion Session Minutes

- I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman Searcy.

- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS
 - A. Chairman Searcy**
 1. MPO Citizen Advisory Committee for Transportation Open Position, with an Alternate
Board Members discussed the appointment of Amy Speak to the MPO CAC on Transportation, with John Kim serving as Alternate.
 - B. Shawn Frost**
 1. Legislative Platform was moved to Mrs. Zorc’s item.
 2. District’s Self-Insured Health Insurance Deficit
Mrs. D’Agresta talked about present and past contract agreements with Brown and Brown that began in 2010. Dr. Fritz answered questions from Board Members and presented financial figures through June 2016. He also stated the process that was used at the end of the contract period with Brown and Brown to send out an RFP (Request for Proposal) that was then awarded to AON in 2015 to oversee and make premium recommendations regarding the District’s self-insured health insurance plan. Dr. Fritz said that AON had a licensed actuary on staff that was providing good business advice. He said that with extensive research he could answer Board Members’ questions as to what the recommended insurance rates were for past years. Dr. Rendell said that the District should be able to capture the recommended premiums. Dr. Fritz stated that HIATF (Health Insurance Advisory Task Force) recommendations for rate increases were not brought to the Board due to direction from the seated Superintendent. Direction from the Chair to Dr. Rendell was to obtain the requested information on HIATF’s, Brown and Brown’s, and Superintendent’s rate recommendations; and the final adopted motions by the Board—to determine if there were any liable action by a particular party. The information was to be brought back to the Board for further discussion before the new contracts came up for adoption.

3. Handout Information at Meetings/Discussions/Workshops

Board Member requested to have all supporting information attached to the Agenda to give Board Members and the Community an opportunity to read the information before meetings/discussions/workshops, with extra copies of last minute handouts for the community. Chairman Searcy described the process used when he was on the Board years ago. It was noted by a couple Board Members that information should be discussed at the Discussion Session; and, then, brought to the Business Meeting with backup information. It was also noted that Discussion Sessions were an opportunity to get consensus to move it to an Action item. Board Member said that his request was to have backup materials for Workshops at least 24-hours prior to the Workshop. Dr. Rendell said that he would ensure that backup materials be available Friday prior to Workshops.

C. Laura Zorc

1. Legislative Platform

Mrs. Zorc handed out copies of last year's platform. As the Legislative Liaison for the Board, Mrs. Zorc said that she would like to include input from all Board Members. Dr. Rendell stated that last year's platform was created using the Treasure Coast Work Group's Legislative Platform. For this year, he stated that there were three issues that he had been discussing with Legislators as follows: 1. Permission to use school average for the Districts of Choice Legislation and the Class Size Legislation; 2. Reinstate the State's Advanced Funding to avoid going out for a Tax Anticipation Note; and 3. Flexibility for Standardized Testing (ACT/SAT).

Mrs. Zorc mentioned the paper test option. Dr. Rendell explained the advantages for students and savings of testing time. He said that he would suggest, at the very least, the use of a paper test for the FSA for 9th and 10th grades. Mrs. Zorc brought up funding for Professional Development. Dr. Rendell said that he would keep it on the list but not as a top five priorities. Chairman Searcy said that changes needed to be made to the required Ethics Training video.

With Board direction, Dr. Rendell said that his handout would be used to present information at the Legislative Meeting scheduled for December 21, 2016. Board Members discussed the need for further discussion. It was noted that today's discussion was centered on the information to be presented by Dr. Rendell at the Legislative Meeting to be held December 21, 2016. It was also noted that Legislators were meeting in January this year, rather than March. There was limited time this year to prepare a Legislative Platform. Board Member talked about the newest model for passing Bills and what that process entailed.

He said that without a Bill and a Sponsor, the Board's Legislative Platform would not be acted upon in Tallahassee. Board Member explained that if a Board Member wanted to continue any discussion, the process was to contact Ms. Stang or Mrs. Poysell to have the item placed on the Agenda for the next Discussion Session.

Mrs. Zorc brought up unfunded mandates as a top priority. She said that she had no objection to Dr. Rendell presenting the list that he prepared for the Legislative Meeting.

2. All Aboard Florida

Mrs. Zorc presented information and talked about the issue of the additional passenger service trains as a safety issue for Indian River County students. A suggestion was made to channel a letter to the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mrs. D'Agresta said that there were discussions and presentations from staff on possible School District related issues.

3. Small School District Consortium

Handouts were distributed from Mrs. Zorc. Board Member asked how much was being spent on the current District Memberships. Dr. Rendell talked about each of his memberships. He said that for all conferences, he reviewed the agenda to see if it was beneficial to the District to attend. Dr. Rendell said that he would put together a report for the Board. He talked about membership in the Small School District Consortium that was mostly based on rural areas so the issues were not the same. Dr. Rendell said that he would not recommend membership. Board Member spoke to their legislative platform and agreed that their issues were not relative. It was noted that memberships come with price breaks for staff training. A suggestion was made to consider viewing online training events versus travel costs. It was noted that the discussion on memberships could be handled through the budget process.

4. County Property Located across from Vero Beach High School

Board Member requested to talk about the 20 acres of County owned property that was being bundled for sale. Board Member brought up the property exchange offer that was turned down by the County. The trade would have been more beneficial for the County. Dr. Rendell noted that the offered price was about \$280,000, a property swap was discussed, and the District did not have a current need for the property. Dr. Rendell said that they met just two months ago with the County and the County was not interested in a swap of property.

5. Plans for District Owned Property in South County

Board Member was interested in keeping the South County property for future growth.

D. Dale Simchick

No items requested.

E. Tiffany Justice

1. Review of Various Board Meetings and Protocols and How They Are Noticed
(added on 12/9/2016)

Board Members were given a copy of the Board Resolution on meeting setup and procedures. There was a discussion on which meetings were to be televised and the seating arrangements at Discussion Sessions. Dr. Rendell said that they could rearrange the seating. Two Board Members were interested in having all quasi-judicial meetings televised and all Termination Hearings audio taped. Consensus was to have all quasi-judicial meetings televised; except for, termination hearings. Dr. Rendell said that he would bring forward a revised Resolution for adoption.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Frost attended the “Excellence in Education” National Workshop that was held in Washington, D.C., that covered everything. Those interested could google “Excellence in Education” to view the workshop. He had breakfast with the Chairman of the House Education Committee. House Chair thanked the School District for adopting the American Founder’s Month Proclamation. Mr. Frost attended the Indian River County P&Z meeting where they discussed going after the 1st Amendment issue in Political Science. The County asked their staff to bring it back.

Mrs. Zorc was studying the committees that she was recently assigned to attend.

Mrs. Simchick said that she attended the Sebastian P&Z but there were no issues involving schools or student safety.

Mrs. Justice said that she attended the Indian River Shores P&Z, with no issues that involved schools or student safety. She reported on her attendance at the Executive Roundtable Meeting, with an upcoming Strategic Planning Session scheduled for February 10.

Chairman Searcy said that he was a member of the Value Adjustment Board but there had not been any activity as of this date. He attended the Prism Concert at Sebastian River High School.

IV. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Rendell

A. Local Legislative Delegation Meeting on December 21, 2016

Dr. Rendell said that this item was already addressed and that he would meet with Mrs. Zorc to go over the presentation to the Legislative Delegation to be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016.

B. Central Florida School Boards Coalition

Dr. Rendell talked about similarities in their direction as compared to the District's issues. He said that membership was \$100.00 per year, with one meeting per month on a Monday in Orlando, attended by the District Superintendent and a School Board Member. Dr. Rendell said that this Coalition was respected in Tallahassee as a voice for education. He said that this group was not a lobbying group but a working group. Board Member requested a copy of their Mission Statement or Charter. Dr. Rendell said that he would get some information for the Board. He said that the membership would be placed on the business meeting as a Consent item.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion adjourned at approximately 3:16 p.m.